SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

The following specification replacement paragraphs do not include any new matter.

Please replace the last paragraph beginning on page 3 and continuing on page 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 2, there is illustrated a side view of the contraction sensing device (10). As shown, the strain sensor (12) and underlying adhesive pad (14) are preferably thin. Such narrow design is not bulky or cumbersome, and thus, reduces user discomfort associated with traditional contraction monitoring systems. Though the preferred embodiment is designed to be narrow in thickness, multiple surface shapes and configurations can be used without deviating from the scope of the present invention. For instance, the sensing device (10) can have rectangular or circular surfaces. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 1A, the sensing device (10) can be fabricated with different surface portions (13a and 13b) having alternate shapes for conforming to varying contours of the abdominal surface. It is preferable, however, that the strain sensor be fabricated as narrow as possible to maximize user comfort.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As illustrated by FIG. 3, the fiber optic strain sensor (12) comprises a single loop of fiber optic cable (20). When the cable (20) is not subject to external forces, the optical signal transmitted through the cable (20) is assigned a normal value. Upon the application of force, such as with a labor contraction, the cable (20) is distorted from its normal shape and a change in the optical signal of the light transmitted through the cable occurs. This change is detected by the light detector (24) and the signal is assigned a new value. It should therefore be understood that,

as shown in FIG. 3A, the present invention covers within its scope the use of more than one fiber optic cable (20) to amplify any changes in the optical signal. More specifically, a fiber optic sensor (12) can be provided having multiple fiber optic cables (20a, 20b, and 20c) placed in parallel, wherein each individual cable (20) can be positioned at varying locations along the surface of the mother's abdomen. Additionally, more than one detector and/or light source can be utilized without deviating from the scope of the present invention.